

# UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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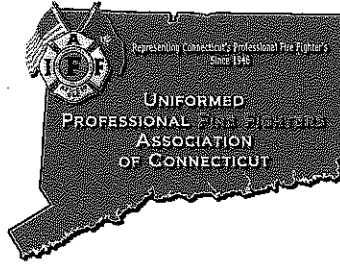
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PAUL J. RAPANAULT

DIRECTOR

Legislative/Political Affairs

February 28, 2012

### Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 5,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

I am here today to support several bills before you.

**Senate Bill 62, AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SAFETY DATA NETWORK** establishes a public safety data network in an electronic format that allows for the exchange of information among public safety and criminal justice entities. The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Chief Information Officer of the Division of Information Technology within the Department of Administrative Services have been working on this network for several, if not many years and it is now time to bring the State of Connecticut into the 21st century. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

**Senate Bill 200, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COORDINATING ADVISORY BOARD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION** adds the executive director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns as a member of the Coordinating Advisory Board of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. During last year's discussions regarding the consolidations of several agencies into the new agency, DESPP, the Advisory Board was proposed as a vehicle by which all the newly merged agencies could work together. For this new agency to work, all partners must be at the table. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL** as a way to include all stakeholders.

**House Bill 5094 AN ACT CONCERNING THE "MOVE OVER" LAW** better protects the operators of emergency vehicles by making the requirement that a driver move over one lane if travelling in the lane adjacent to where a stationary emergency vehicle is located applicable to highways with two or more lanes proceeding in the same direction. Many of the limited access highways in Connecticut, including some sections of I-95, are two lanes in each direction. Public act 09-121 relies on the definition of "highway" as three or more travel lanes, thereby making the 2009 Public Act inapplicable to limited access highways in Connecticut that have two lanes that proceed in the same direction (I-95 from Branford to the Rhode Island border, Route 9, I-395, Route 8, Route 11, etc....). A number of Fire Fighters, State Troopers and Emergency Medical Personnel have been struck and injured while on these highways and in order to protect our public safety personnel throughout the state, there is a need to strengthen the "move over" law. This bill does that and **we SUPPORT IT.**

**House Bill 5247 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ASSAULT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY MEDICAL, PUBLIC TRANSIT OR HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL, we SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault, Legislative/Political Affairs

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